

Fall 2015

## **EES 4099**

Kraig Derstler  
*University of New Orleans*

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**Instructor:** Kraig Derstler, G/P 1020A, [kderstle@uno.edu](mailto:kderstle@uno.edu); 280-6799

**Office Hours:** TTh 11am-12:30pm; WF 1-3pm

**Text:** Stanley, S. M. & J.A. Luczaj, 2015. Earth System History. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Freeman. ISBN-13:978-1-4292-5526-4 or ISBN-10: 1-4292-5526-9

**Grading:** Primarily based upon participation and attendance.

Your letter grade starts with an A; it will be lowered at instructor's discretion for failure to:

- read the daily assignments,
- participate in classroom discussions,
- adequately prepare as discussion leader when assigned,
- adequately complete:
  - 1.) individual in-class oral reports,
  - 2.) geological time scale quiz, and
  - 3.) initial essay,
  - 4.) entry and exit interviews.

The same grade policy will apply to unexcused absences from class. After one excused or other absence, class grade will be reduced by 1 letter grade for each subsequent absence. Excused absences must be arranged beforehand, except in cases of obvious emergency. Traffic tickets, weddings, and preparing for another class will not be considered adequate excuses. For more detail, see below.

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**Assignments:**

- Read selection from text before each class. Each reading assignment will be determined at the end of the preceding class (therefore never miss class).
  - show up for each class prepared to talk briefly about two topics:
    1. an issue from the readings that you want to know more about and therefore researched,
    2. an issue from the readings that you questioned and checked out, and
    3. something that is demonstrably wrong from the readings (2&3 can be same item in some cases)
- BE PREPARED WITH THESE QUESTIONS FOR EACH CLASS.
- Geological Time Scale Quiz (twice, part of each interview, see below)
  - Initial Essay
  - First Interview/Exam (1/2 hour individual exam with instructor)
  - Exit Interview/Exam - required during the week of final exams.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required for all class meetings.

Maximum of one absence (excused or otherwise) without grade penalty. After this point, grade will be lower by one letter for each additional absence no matter whether excused or not. Instructor reserves right to slightly modify this policy if in his opinion it serves the professional or intellectual development of the student. However, in no case will a student be assigned a C or better if their total absences exceed 4 or a D for 5 absences. 6 absences (excused or otherwise) guarantee an F in this class.

**Honesty:** Any academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade. Your case may also be submitted for further action.

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. To this end, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Such dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examination, and being accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information: <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>

**Disabled Students:** The instructor will make all reasonable accommodations for students registered with ODS.

UNO provides reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students should contact the Office of Disability Services and their instructors to discuss this issue: <http://www.ods.uno.edu>

**Learning Goals:**

- Review the curriculum, integrating your departmental coursework with this semester's readings.
- Develop/improve your skill for critical thinking and skeptical reading.
- Improve skills for rapid research and oral reporting.
- Improve your skill at leading discussions.

**Student Conduct:** Some wise and important soul has decided that all UNO syllabi need a statement on student behavior. To that end, I expect you to be polite, to do all required work, actively participate in all class discussions. I also expect you to eschew behaving like Donald Trump. If you don't know what that means, use a Thesaurus and work your way backwards.

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**Tentative Schedule:**

We will read the chapters sequentially. Each reading assignment will be finalizing assignments at the end of class. There will be no other indication of these reading assignments.

Aug. 20 -- Introduction

Aug. 25 -- Initial Essay Due, assign Platt 1964 "Strong Inference", also look up MWH (Chamberlain) and falsifiability (Popper)

27 -- discuss Platt, MWH, and falsifiability

Sept 1,3 - discussion  
no class Tues Sept 8

Sept 10 - discussion  
First individual oral exams -- week of Sept. 14-18

Sept 15, 17 - discussion  
Sept. 22, 24 - discussion  
Sept 29, Oct. 1 - discussion  
Oct. 6,8 - discussion  
Oct.13 - discussion  
No class Thursday Oct 15 - fall break

Oct. 20, 22 - discussion  
Oct 27,29 - discussion  
Nov 3,5 - discussion  
Nov.10,12 - discussion  
Nov.17,19 - discussion  
Nov.24 - discussion

Thus Nov. 26 - no class, Thanksgiving Holiday  
Dec 1,3 - final discussion

Second individual oral exams --Dec. 7-11 (finals week)

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#### **Important Dates**

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee.....08/18/2015  
Semester Classes Begin.....08/19/2015  
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,  
or withdraw with 100% refund .....08/25/2015  
Last day to apply for December commencement .....09/25/2015  
Final day to drop a course or resign .....10/14/2015  
Mid-semester examinations .....10/05-10/09/2015  
Final examinations .....12/07-12/11/2015  
Commencement .....12/18/2015

#### **Fall Semester Holidays**

Labor Day .....09/07/2015  
Mid-semester break .....10/15-10/16/2015  
Thanksgiving .....11/26-11/27/2015

#### **Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only**

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

#### **Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only**

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

**Repeat Policy** -- When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy** -- <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

**Safety Awareness Facts and Education** -- Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

**UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares** -- UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

**Emergency Procedures** -- Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

**Diversity at UNO** ---- As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

**Learning and Support Services** --- Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

**Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity** -- UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>